



PRUDHOE URBAN DISTRICT

County of Northumberland

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1967



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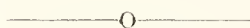
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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman : Councillor J. W. BEWICK

Members :

Councillors : D. O. GAZZANI
J. GRIFFIN
P. KNOX
R. S. PROCKTER
J. RIDLEY
A. J. SHILLING
S. SIMPSON
Miss E. SWAN



OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :	H. C. T. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.P.A.
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR :	W. G. TWEDDLE, M.A.P.H.I.
CLERK AND SHORTHAND/TYPIST :	Miss J. GRAY

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year Ended 31st December, 1967

Telephone Nos. :
Prudhoe 2281/2282.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
18 SOUTH ROAD,
PRUDHOE,
NORTHUMBERLAND.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MISS SWAN AND GENTLEMEN,

It is my honour to present the annual report for 1967. Once again thanks are due to the Members of the Council for their interest and to the other officers of the Council and many individuals in the district for their co-operation.

During 1967, the new clinic at West Wylam was opened and it is now in full operation. The co-operation between the family doctors and Local Health Authority has always been good in Prudhoe and it is hoped that the new premises will provide facilities in which further joint endeavours can take place.

Yours faithfully,

H. C. T. SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District in acres	..	..	..	..	..	3,889
Registrar General's estimate of population 1967..	..	..	..	..	..	10,660
Inhabited Houses	..	..	..	..	..	3,285
Rateable Value	..	..	..	..	..	£301,995
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	..	..	..	..	£1,069

POPULATION TRENDS

Year	1951	..	..	..	..	9,484
	1956	..	..	..	..	9,950
	1961	..	..	..	..	9,990
	1962	..	..	..	..	10,180
	1963	..	..	..	..	10,330
	1964	..	..	..	..	10,490
	1965	..	..	..	..	10,580
	1966	..	..	..	..	10,660
	1967	..	..	..	..	10,660

VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>Numbers</i>		<i>Rates</i> 1967
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	
LIVE BIRTHS	81	59	140
Live birth rate per 1,000 population			13.13
Comparability factor : 0.94			
Adjusted birth rate per 1,000 population			12.34
ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS	3	1	4
Illegitimate birth rate per 100 total live births			2.86
STILLBIRTHS	2	—	2
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths			14.08
TOTAL LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS ..	83	59	142
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.	3	1	4
Infant mortality rate. (Deaths in the first year of life per 1,000 live births)			28.57
Illegitimate infant deaths.. ..	1	—	1
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS	2	1	3
Neonatal mortality rate. (Deaths in the first 4 weeks per 1,000 live births)			21.43
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 WEEK	1	1	2
Early neonatal mortality rate. (Deaths in the first week per 1,000 live births)			14.29
Perinatal mortality rate. (Stillbirths + deaths in the first week per 1,000 total births)			28.17
DEATHS	69	46	115
Death rate per 1,000 population..			10.79
Comparability factor : 1.22			
Adjusted death rate per 1,000 population			13.16

There have been no maternal deaths in Prudhoe since 1956,

COMPARISON WITH PREVIOUS YEARS

Year	Birth Rate (Adjusted)	Illegitimate Live Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Death Rate (Adjusted)
1956 — 1960 ..	14.6	1.5	18.1	31.5	29.3	44.0	13.4
1961 — 1965 ..	15.5	3.4	10.8	21.7	19.3	27.2	14.7
1966	14.5	4.8	12.0	24.2	24.2	23.9	14.5
1967	12.3	2.8	14.0	28.5	21.4	28.1	13.1

COMPARISON WITH OTHER AREAS — 1967

	Birth Rate Adjusted	Illegi- timate Birth Rate	Still Birth Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Neonatal Mortality Rate	Perinatal Mortality Rate	Maternal Mortality Rate	Death Rate Adjusted	Comparability Factors	
									Births	Deaths
England and Wales	17.2	8.4	14.8	18.3	12.5	25.4	0.2	11.2	1.00	1.00
Northumberland										
Admin. County . .	14.8	6.0	13.9	17.6	12.5	24.1	Nil	12.0	1.00	1.03
South Area of										
Northumberland	14.0	4.6	11.3	19.0	15.8	26.3	Nil	11.2	0.94	0.94
Prudhoe U.D.C. . .	12.3	2.9	14.1	28.6	21.4	28.2	Nil.	13.2	0.94	1.22

DEATHS

Causes of Infant Deaths

Three deaths were ascribed to prematurity and the fourth at one month was an infant with multiple congenital defects the direct cause of death being given as perforation of the intestine.

Causes of Stillbirths

One stillbirth was due to anencephaly and the other was an intra uterine death, cause not stated.

Principal Causes of Death

There were 26 deaths among long stay patients at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. This leaves 89 deaths for the rest of the district and a crude death rate of 9.8.

	<i>Total</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Hospital</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Home</i>	<i>%</i>
Cancer	24	(20.9)	1	(3.8)	23	(25.8)
Cerebro-vascular disease ..	18	(15.6)	3	(11.5)	15	(16.9)
Heart and circulatory disease..	30	(26.1)	6	(23.1)	24	(27.0)
Respiratory disease	14	(12.2)	8	(30.8)	6	(6.7)
All other causes.. ..	22	(19.1)	8	(30.8)	14	(15.7)
Violence	7	(6.1)			7	(7.9)
	<hr/> 115 <hr/>		<hr/> 26 <hr/>		<hr/> 89 <hr/>	

DEATHS FROM CANCER

		A G E					TOTAL
		35 +	45 +	55 +	65 +	75 +	
Mouth ..	M.	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stomach ..	M.	—	1	—	3	—	4
	F.	—	—	—	2	—	2
Pancreas..	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F.	—	—	—	2	—	2
Colon ..	M.	—	—	1	—	1	2
	F.	1	—	—	—	2	3
Lung ..	M.	1	1	1	—	1	4
	F.	—	—	2	—	—	2
Uterus ..	F.	1	—	—	—	1	2
Primary site	M.	—	—	—	—	—	—
unknown	F.	—	—	—	1	—	1
Leukaemia	M.	—	—	—	1	—	1
	F.	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	M.	1	2	2	5	2	12
	F.	2	—	2	5	3	12

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases Notified during 1967 :

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—
1 — 4 years ..	—	—	—	—
5 — 14 years ..	—	—	—	—
15 — 24 years ..	—	—	1*	—
25 — 34 years ..	—	—	—	—
35 — 44 years ..	2	—	—	1
45 — 54 years ..	1	—	—	—
55 — 64 years ..	—	—	—	—
65 — 74 years ..	—	—	—	1
75 years and over	—	—	—	—
	3	—	1*	2

*Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital cases

Tuberculosis Registers

	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
January, 1967 ..	7	4	—	2	13
December, 1967 ..	8	4	—	4	16

Prudhoe & Monkton Hospital

January, 1967 ..	9	10	1	1	21
December, 1967 ..	9	9	1	1	20

Comparison with Previous Years

(excluding Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital cases)

<i>Year</i>	<i>New Cases Notified</i>		<i>Deaths Pulmonary & Non-Pulmonary</i>
	<i>Pulmonary</i>	<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
Average 1951 — 1955 ..	10	2	1
Average 1956 — 1960 ..	5	1	1
1961	3	—	1
1962	1	1	1
1963	5	—	2
1964	4	—	—
1965	—	—	—
1966	3	1	1
1967	3	2	—

INFECTIONOUS DISEASES

Notifications received

	A G E					TOTAL
	0—1	1—4	5—14	15—64	65 +	
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	2	—	2
Measles ..	9	108	66	—	—	183
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	4	2	—	6
Typhoid Fever ..	—	—	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	1

Month of Notification

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Dysentery ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	101	48	28	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	103	50	31	7	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—

Typhoid Fever

In February a boy aged 13 at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital was found to have typhoid. He had returned from a spell at his home outside this district two weeks before the symptoms developed. Subsequently it was found that the boy's father was excreting the typhoid bacillus and this was thought to be the source of the boy's infection. At the hospital all possible precautions were taken to prevent spread of infection and specimens of urine and faeces were sent for bacteriological examination of all persons who had been in contact with the boy during the incubation period and the early part of the illness. This included a few out-patients in Prudhoe and Ryton. Sewer swabs were placed at appropriate points. No further typhoid bacilli were encountered.

The boy was discharged from Walkergate Hospital in April and was found to be still excreting the typhoid bacillus. However he soon became negative and specimens taken throughout the year remained negative.

Infective Hepatitis

In the Autumn there was a sharp outbreak of this disease in the West Wylam area. School children were mainly affected. A number of cases also developed in patients at the Prudhoe and Monkton Hospital. The infection was very mild.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

During 1967 immunisations and vaccinations were given according to the following schedule :—

<i>Age</i>	<i>Vaccine</i>
1 3 months	Triple antigen (Diphtheria, Tetanus and Whooping Cough) and Oral Poliomyelitis.
2 4 months	Triple antigen.
3 5 months	Triple antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis.
4 7 months	Oral Poliomyelitis.
5 1 — 2 years	Smallpox vaccination.
6 2 years	Triple antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis.
7 4 — 5 years	Diphtheria/Tetanus. Oral Poliomyelitis.
8 8 — 10 years	Diphtheria/Tetanus.
9 10 — 12 years	B.C.G. (to those negative to skin test).

It would appear that during the year almost all infants received triple antigen and oral poliomyelitis vaccine. About 50% received smallpox vaccinations. Most of the eligible children also received the appropriate booster doses of triple antigen and oral poliomyelitis at aged two and five. During 1967 also the parents of all children at school were circulated and most children 8 - 10 were brought up-to-date with a diphtheria/tetanus booster. Those who had never had primary tetanus inoculations were given a diphtheria/tetanus booster followed by tetanus injections two and twelve months later.

At the beginning of 1968 a new schedule of immunisation and vaccination was introduced following recommendations by the Medical Research Council Committee on the subject. This reduces the number of injections substantially and should be easier to operate. Routine measles vaccinations will be introduced during 1968.

New Schedule

<i>Age</i>	<i>Vaccine</i>
1 4 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis.
2 6 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis.
3 12 months	Triple Antigen and Oral Poliomyelitis.
4 2nd year	Measles.
5 2nd year	Smallpox.
6 4/5 years	Diphtheria, Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis.
7 10/12 years	B.C.G. (if necessary after skin test).
8 On leaving school	Tetanus and Oral Poliomyelitis.

NUMBERS IMMUNISED DURING 1967

	YEAR OF BIRTH						Total
	1967	1966	1965	1964	1960/63	1951/59	
Primary Diphtheria/ Pertussis/Tetanus*	44	113	7	3	4	13	184
Primary Tetanus combined with reinforcing Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	2	111	113
Reinforcing Diphtheria /Pertussis/Tetanus ..	—	3	112	24	30	19	188
Reinforcing Diphtheria /Tetanus** ..	—	—	4	1	145	286	436
Primary Poliomyelitis	40	117	7	3	2	3	172
Reinforcing Poliomyelitis ..	—	1	114	31	159	1	306
Primary Smallpox Vaccination	51	16	9	2	1	—	79
Smallpox Revaccination ..	—	—	—	1	2	2	5
B.C.G., Vaccination ..	—	—	—	—	—	169	169

* Includes a small number of persons where only diphtheria/tetanus was given.

** Includes a number of persons where diphtheria or tetanus only was given.

REPORT

OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1967

To : Dr. Smith

I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report.

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water Supply	28
Drainage (new or reconstructed)	60
Stables and Piggeries	3
Fried Fish Shops	9
Factories	41
Bakehouses	6
Public Conveniences	58
Places of Entertainment and Licensed Premises	37
Refuse Collection and Disposal	361
Rodent Control	80
Atmospheric Pollution (Clean Air Act)	27
Schools and Shops	29
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	82
Public Health and Housing Acts	793
Inquiries and Disinfection in cases of Infectious Disease .	46
Butchers, Canteens, Dairies, Fishmongers, Grocers and Food Preparing Premises	141
Ice Cream Retailers, Manufacturers and Restaurants	20
Street Hawkers' Carts and Vehicles	42
Miscellaneous Food Visits	21

1,884

Number of Nuisances Found	61
Number of Nuisances Abated	60
Number of Verbal Notices Served	53
Number of Verbal Notices Complied With	53
Number of Informal Notices Served	159
Number of Informal Notices Complied With .	159
Number of Statutory Notices Served	—
Number of Statutory Notices Complied With	—

General Administration under the Public Health and Housing Acts

During 1967, 366 enquiries and complaints were received at the office and all were investigated and suitable action taken.

HOUSING

In April an enquiry regarding the following properties at West Mickley was held in the Civil Defence Centre, Prudhoe.

Beech Street	—	Nos. 1 to 5.
Elm Street	—	Nos. 1 to 9.
Oak Street	—	Nos. 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13.
Oak Street	—	Nos. 2, 4, 6, 10 and 14.

This represents a total of 24 houses and two flats. Subsequently the Ministry of Housing and Local Government issued a report and since then negotiations have taken place between the owners and the Council regarding the future of these properties.

General inspections of privately owned houses were carried out during the year to ascertain the position regarding the facilities available, viz., hot water supply, bath, foodstore, sanitation, etc., and a number of houses received improvement and standard grants bringing the total up to 193. Properties without full amenities is not accurately known but it is estimated that the number in the district is fairly small due to the demolition of over 700 unfit houses and the building of over 1,100 council properties and 450 private houses since 1946.

At their Castle Dene Estate where all the permanent houses were of pre-war construction, an active policy has been pursued by the Council in carrying out improvement works and the Council has also completed an improvement scheme on 24 houses at Biverfield Road, West Wylam, which they had purchased from the National Coal Board.

Plans were under way at the end of the year to commence the development of a council housing estate at Edgewell on the site of the 80 bungalows which were demolished four years ago. The first scheme was for a total of 44 houses and ultimately it is hoped that over 100 houses will be built on the site.

Various repairs to private houses has been done during the year.

In January, sixteen aluminium bungalows were still occupied at Castle Close, 34 having been demolished. These prefabricated bungalows which were over 20 years old were subsequently vacated by the end of September and demolished.

50 Tarran-type bungalows at Broomhill were found to be deteriorating rapidly and the Council decided to remove the occupants whenever suitable accommodation became available. This process commenced in October and at the end of December six bungalows had been vacated and plans were being made to demolish them.

Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 5 High Mickley

These four houses which had been closed were purchased by a builder who converted them into two modern homes.

The Locomotive Inn and House at Prudhoe Road Ends was closed in September, this being the third licensed premise to be closed recently.

New houses were under construction at Castle Hill and Mickley, the builders being William Leech (Builders) Limited and John Mills (Prudhoe) Limited.

NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING THE YEAR	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	—	—	—
(b) By any other Housing Authority ..	—	—	—
(c) By Private Persons	—	27	27

Total number of inhabited houses in District 3,285

Total number of houses owned by Local Authority .. 1,587

ACTION WITH REGARD TO UNFIT HOUSES

Closing and Demolition *No. of houses*

1. Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	25
2. Houses demolished not in Clearance Areas	6
3. Houses Closed, not demolished	—
4. Any other houses permanently discontinued as dwellings and not included above	—

Repairs

Houses made fit

5. By informal action	9
6. By owners, following statutory notice	—
7. By local authority in default of owners	—
8. Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction ..	—

Houses patched

9. Houses in clearance areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	—
--	---

Clearance Programme

10. Number of unfit houses in clearance programme remaining to be dealt with at end of year ..	10
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IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

*No. of separate
houses***A. DISCRETIONARY GRANTS** (Housing Act 1949, as amended)

1. Applications submitted to local authority during year	8
2. Applications rejected	—
3. Applications approved	8
4. Approximate average grant approved per house ..	£203
5. Total number of houses approved for grant in area since inception of scheme	162

B. STANDARD GRANTS (House Purchase and Housing Act 1959,
as amended)

	<i>During the Year</i>	<i>Total to Date</i>
1. Number of separate houses for which grants have been made	8	31
2. Number of houses so provided with		
(a) Bath or shower	8	26
(b) Wash hand basin	8	26
(c) Hot water supply	8	26
(d) Water Closet	1	2
(e) Food store	1	2

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Number of privy closets in use in area as at end of the year 5

Number of houses without piped water supply :

supplied by standpipes —

no mains supply —

Public Conveniences

Constant vigilance was necessary to keep the Road Ends and Branch End Public Conveniences in operation and avoid any serious inconvenience to users as from time to time damage is caused to the premises by vandals.

Refuse Collection and Disposal (House and Trade Refuse)

This service was carried out in a very satisfactory manner and all the persons engaged on the work are to be congratulated for the way in which they have performed their duties especially during the severe weather experienced in winter months,

Although actual weight in refuse has decreased there is now a very considerable increase in bulk and as less open fires are in use people are unable to burn many articles which they could do so formerly. Many packaged goods are made up in various materials which cannot be burned. Although not a specified Clean Air zone new houses are being built with only one fireplace often burning smokeless fuel or else other means of heating is employed, gas, electricity or oil. This all tends to increase bulk in refuse collection but does improve the cleanliness of the atmosphere.

It has been necessary to make considerable use of the Drott machine on West Wylam Tip and so reduce any nuisance to a minimum. This machine has proved to be of great help in covering refuse and as I reported in 1966 it will be necessary to increase the use of the machine to keep the tip in good order which is a valuable asset to the Council.

I have again to report that requests for the removal of large unwanted household articles increased considerably. This service although it may cost time and money is helpful in stopping rubbish from being deposited on roadside verges and various parts of council housing estates.

Factories Act, 1961

The register at the end of 1967 was as follows :—

Garages	10
Joiners' and Builders' Premises	7
Boot and Shoe Repairers	3
Sanitary Pipes and Brickworks	3
Blacksmiths and Light Engineering	3
Battery Charging	3
Chemical Works	1
Miscellaneous (Building operations, gravel extraction, etc.)	10
Engineering Works	1
	<hr/> 41 <hr/>

FACTORIES ACT, 1961**Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health**

PREMISES	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	19	22	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	19	16	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises) ..	3	3	—	—
TOTAL ..	41	41	—	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

PARTICULARS	Number of Cases in which Defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred		No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not Separate for Sexes..	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including Offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	4	4	—	—	—

Outwork

There are no Outworkers.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955**Section 13 — Inspection and Supervision of Food**

Bakehouses..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	19
Canteens, Restaurants and Snack Bars..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Clubs	..	..	..	..	..	10
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	15
General Dealers	..	..	..	..	..	121
Hospital Kitchens..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	24
School Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	8

Unsound Food	Surrendered
Beef (tinned) ..	6 lbs.
Chopped Pork (tinned) ..	28 lbs.
Ham (tinned) ..	22 lbs.
Chicken Roll (tinned) ..	28 lbs.
Butter ..	17½ lbs.
Ham ..	11½ lbs.
Hindquarter Beef ..	27 lbs.
Sausage ..	20 lbs.
Various canned foods, etc.	244 contrs.

Disposal of Unsound Food

Tinned goods have been disposed of at the West Wylam Tip and other foods incinerated.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 24 — Sale of Horse Flesh

There are no premises dealing in horse flesh.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 16 — Registration of Premises

This section covers premises where ice cream is sold and where sausages are manufactured. Inspection of these types of premises has been regularly carried out.

All ice cream sold from shops in Prudhoe district is prepacked. A number of itinerant vans selling ice cream visit the area every day and whenever inspection has taken place they were found to be satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Section 63 — Slaughter Houses

There is no slaughter house in the district.

Control and Supervision of Milk Supplies

Over 95% of milk sold is either Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised, the remainder being Sterilised. Samples have been taken by the Northumberland County Health Department and in all cases the Public Health Laboratory reports were satisfactory.

Brucella Abortus

With regard to raw milk not heat treated produced and sold in Prudhoe, four samples were taken for examination and found to be satisfactory after examination at the Public Health Laboratory.

Poultry Inspection

There are no poultry processing premises within the district.

Water Supply

All domestic water is supplied from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, two service reservoirs, one at Mickley and the other at Drawback, being sufficient to meet the needs of the town since both have been enlarged during the past years.

Eleven samples of water were taken in different parts of the district and the Public Health Laboratory reports again confirmed the excellent quality of the water.

Swimming Pool, Front Street, Prudhoe

Several samples of pool water were collected and examined at the Public Health Laboratory, the results in every case being satisfactory.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269 — Tents, Vans and Sheds

There are no licences in force.

Disinfection and Disinfestation of Premises

A small number of disinfections were carried out after inspections and disinfestation work was done by the rodent operative and this covered a variety of insects.

Places of Entertainment. Circular 120, Ministry of Health

Number of Premises — 1 (cinema and bingo hall).

Pet Animals Act, 1951

No premises are registered under this Act.

Offensive Trades. Public Health Act, 1963 — Section 107

No premises are registered under this Act.

Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956

No special action was required during the year.

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

One complaint received attention during the year.

Landlord and Tenant Act, 1962

Several enquiries were dealt with and advice given but no further action was necessary.

Lodging Houses

None.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

Registrations and General Inspections

No difficulty has been experienced in seeing that all types of premises coming into occupation were registered.

With regard to the general provisions of the Act, several improvements were effected in respect of ventilation in both offices and shops, defective floor boards and handrails being given particular attention. Full co-operation was received from all concerned.

Under Section 10, washing facilities were provided and improved in several premises and in all premises to my knowledge drinking water was supplied from the mains of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

There were no accidents reported during 1967.

Class of Premises	No. of Premises newly registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving one or more general inspection during the year
Offices	2	15	15
Retail shops ..	1	37	35
Wholesale shops, warehouses ..	—	2	2
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	—	7	7
Fuel storage depots	—	3	3
TOTALS ..	3	64	62

Number of Visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered Premises : 82

Analysis by Workplace of Persons employed in Registered Premises at end of year

Class of Workplace	Nvmber of Persons employed
Offices	50
Retail shops	209
Wholesale departments, warehouses	6
Catering establishments open to the public	41
Canteens.. ..	3
Fuel storage depots	3
TOTAL	312
TOTAL MALES.. ..	140
TOTAL FEMALES	172

PESTS ACT, 1949

Rodent Control

The number of properties inspected following notification increased by 29 over the previous year and the number found infested by rats and mice increased by 23 and six respectively. In addition, 98 properties were investigated for the presence of vermin but in only three and four cases were rats and mice found.

The rodent operator is thoroughly experienced in the destruction of rats and mice and has carried out his work very efficiently. The public are very helpful in reporting the presence of rodents and remedial measures where necessary are always carried out within a very short time of the complaint. This is not a spectacular service but it is a very important one and must be given special attention so that rats and mice do not become established in the town with consequent damage to property and food stuffs.

		TYPE OF PROPERTY	
		Non-	Agricultural
Properties Other than Sewers			
1.	Number of properties in district ..	3,360	27
2.	(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification ..	80	—
	(b) Number infested by (1) Rats ..	51	—
	(2) Mice ..	29	—
3.	Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	88	10
	(b) Number infested by (1) Rats ..	3	
	(2) Mice ..	4	
Sewers			
4.	Sewers infested by rats during the year		None

Conclusion

I wish to express my thanks to Councillor J. W. Bewick who has been Chairman of the Public Health Committee for the past two years for his interest in the work ; to Dr. H. C. T. Smith, Medical Officer of Health, for his support ; Mr. T. Philipson, Clerk of the Council, for his advice and co-operation and Miss J. Gray, Shorthand/Typist in the department who has ably assisted me in the work throughout 1967.

Yours faithfully,

W. G. TWEDDLE,

Public Health Inspector

